

PRESS RELEASE

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIEN AT WISCONSIN DELLS MOTEL

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Siddhartha "Sam" Shah, 52, of Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Madison to harboring an illegal alien.

At the guilty plea, the prosecution proffered evidence showing that in 2006, Shah arranged for an alien to be smuggled from Guatemala to a Super 8 Motel operated by Shah in Wisconsin Dells, where the alien worked as a housekeeper and resided in a utility closet.

U.S. District Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb scheduled sentencing for November 27, 2007, at 3:00 p.m. The defendant faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison. The defendant has surrendered his passport and is released pending sentencing.

Related charges remain pending against a co-defendant -- Jignesh "Mark" Jagaria. His trial is scheduled for October 29, 2007.

The charges are the result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and

Customs Enforcement; the United States Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General, and; the Wisconsin Dells Police Department. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to First Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott.

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